To Apply the Order of Creation to Humanly Established Offices

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Whereas, the Holy Scriptures teach the **order of creation** in 1 Timothy 2:11-14, "A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she must be silent. For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner" and 1 Cor 14:34-35, "...women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the Law says. If they want to inquire about something, they should ask their own husbands at home; for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church;" and Whereas, up until 1969, the Missouri Synod, along with other members of the Synodical Conference, taught and practiced on the basis of 1 Corinthians 14:34-35 and 1 Timothy 2:11-12, that a woman was not to have authority over a man by either participation in congregational meetings, nor by holding a congregational office; and Whereas, the 1969 LCMS Convention Res. 2-17 in granting women the right to vote in congregational meetings and to hold some congregational offices of service, specifically made provision that women could serve only in those instances that do not involve "a violation of the order of creation." This 1969 document still maintained the order of creation applied to both the pastoral office(Point 1, not listed here) and other humanly established offices. It stated in point 2, "The principles set forth in such [biblical] passages, we believe, prohibit holding any other kind of office or membership on boards or committees in the institutional structures of a congregation, only if this involves women in a violation of the order of **creation...**" And in point 4, "...provided the polity developed conforms to the general Scriptural principles that women neither hold the pastoral office **NOR** 'exercise authority over men'; (emphasis mine)" and Whereas the 1970 CCM opinion based on 1969 Res. 2-17, supplied this model paragraph for congregations to adopt: Women of appropriate age "may hold voting membership in the congregation and serve as officers and as members of boards and committees as long as these positions are not directly involved in the specific functions of the pastoral office (preaching, the public administration of the sacraments, church discipline) and as long as this service does not violate the order of creation (usurping authority over men). Accordingly, they shall not serve [the board of elders or "corresponding board directly as pastor, as a member of involved in the functions of the pastoral office"], as chairman or vice-chairman of the congregation, or as chairman of _____;" and Whereas, the 1985 CTCR report "Women in the Church" restricted the Scriptural prohibition(that "a women is not to have authority over a man" as it had been applied to both the pastoral office and other humanly established offices) saying that it only applied to the exercise of the Pastoral Office; and Whereas, a CTCR 1985 minority report of five LCMS professors disagreed with the 1985 CTCR Report, "Women in the Church." They wrote about its shortcomings: "first, the treatment of terms such as 'teaching,' 'exercising authority,' etc., and second the understanding of the doctrine of the order of creation.... Simple equation of teaching with the pastoral office

seems too facile for this text.... The issues surrounding the verb authenteoo("to exercise/usurp authority") are very difficult and simply must be handled, as the Report does not.... This is especially true in the case at hand, when the current Report puts forth positions which are at odds with the official position adopted by the Synod. Our fundamental concern, however, is that in an important matter such as this we study seriously and reverently the Word of God as his faithful people" (CTCR Minority Report, 1985); and

Whereas, the 1994 CTCR Report, "The Service of Women in Congregational and Synodical Offices," authorized by 1989 Convention resolution 3-13A, no longer considered the teaching of order of creation applicable outside the pastoral office and concluded that women may serve "in all offices of the congregation, including that of chairman, vice-chairman and elder, and district and Synodical boards and commissions" provided that they don't involve the public accountability for the function[ing] of the pastoral office;" and

Whereas, the 1995 LCMS Convention did not accept the 1994 report, but told the CTCR to continue to study the issues in consultation with the faculties of the seminaries and to "address concerns regarding the priesthood of all believers, the order of creation, and the Greek word authentei;" and

Whereas, without another study being produced, the 2004 Synodical Convention approved Resolution 3-08A, "To Affirm the Conclusions of the 1994 CTCR Report: The Service of Women in Congregational and Synodical Offices." Applying the conclusions of an unapproved report, which restricted the order of creation to the pastoral office, 2004 Convention Resolution Res. 3-08A, approved women to serve in every humanly established office; and

 Whereas, soon after the 2004 Synodical Convention, the Synodical President appointed a task force in order to provide congregational guidelines for implementing Res. 3-08A. Although the recommendations did include the encouragement that women not hold the office of elder or assist in the distribution of Holy Communion, nevertheless **this encouragement was not because of concerns with violations of the order of creation**, but only because these offices assist with the public exercise of the pastoral office. Furthermore, this task force has **no official authority to interpret convention action**, and thus 2004 Res. 3-08A stands which "approved women to serve in every humanly established office;" therefore be it

Resolved that the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, gathered in convention **rescind the 2004 LCMS convention Res. 3-08A**(To affirm the Conclusions of the unapproved 1994 CTCR report, "The Service of Women in Congregational Offices"); and be it

Resolved that the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, gathered in convention, reject the 1994 CTCR Report, "The Service of Women in Congregational and Synodical Offices;" and be it

Resolved that the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, gathered in convention, direct the Commission on Theology and Church Relations to apply the Scriptural teaching on the Order of Creation(1 Timothy 2:11-12, 1 Corinthians 14:34-35) to both the pastoral office and all humanly established offices, as it completes the request of 1995 LCMS Convention (Resolution

3-10) to Prepare a Comprehensive Study of the Scriptural Relationship of Man and Woman.

Approved on Sunday, January 28, 2007

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